

# Electron-driven $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetal uncovered in $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$

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Two-dimensional semimetals have been the center of intensified investigations since the realization of graphene. In particular, the design of Dirac and Weyl semimetals has been scrutinized. Typically, Dirac metals emerge from crystal-field environments captured by density functional theory (DFT). Here, we show by angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) how a rotational symmetry broken massive Dirac semimetal is realized in  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ . This Dirac semimetal emerges in a two-stage electronic transition driven by electron correlations beyond the DFT paradigm. The Dirac point and band velocity is consistent with constraints set by quantum oscillation, thermodynamic and transport experiments. Our results hence advance the understanding of the peculiar fermiology found in  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ . As the two-stage Fermi surface transition preserves the Brillouin zone, translational broken symmetries are excluded. The mechanism and symmetry breaking elements underlying the electronic reconstruction thus remain to be identified. This situation resembles  $\text{URu}_2\text{Si}_2$  that also undergoes an electronic transition without an identifiable symmetry breaking. As such our study positions  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  as another prominent hidden order parameter problem.

## Introduction:

Giant diamagnetic responses found in graphite [1] and graphene [2, 3] are directly linked to the “light” effective mass of Dirac fermions [4]. The observation of an even larger diamagnetic response upon application of electric current to Mott insulating  $\text{Ca}_2\text{RuO}_4$  therefore came as a surprise [5], even though it was known that electrical current induces remetalization [6]. To account for the diamagnetic response, the existence of a light-mass semimetal driven by electron correlations has been put forward [5]. Experimentally it is, however, challenging to confirm the existence of such a semimetallic state on the verge of the Mott transition. First, the current-induced semimetal is difficult to realize at temperature scales relevant for quantum oscillations. Second, application of current is not easily compatible with high-resolution angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) experiments. The mechanism of the current-induced diamagnetism and the Mott-insulator-to-semimetal transition therefore remains unexplained.

The Mott insulating transition ( $T_c \approx 350$  K [7, 8]) of  $\text{Ca}_2\text{RuO}_4$  is associated with a pronounced  $c$ -axis lattice compression [9, 10], that drives the  $d_{xy}$  orbital channel to band insulating (fully occupied) whereas the resulting half-filled  $d_{xz}$  and  $d_{yz}$  sectors go Mott insulating [11, 12]. A similar but much less pronounced  $c$ -axis lattice compression without a space-group change [ $Bb2_1m$  (No. 36)] is found in the orthorhombic bi-layer system  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  at  $T_s = 48$  K [13]. A-type antiferromagnetic (AFM) or-

der setting in at  $T_N = 56$  K [13] also undergoes a spin re-orientation across this temperature: Magnetic moments flip from the orthorhombic  $a$ -axis (AFM- $a$  at  $T > T_s$ ) to the  $b$ -axis (AFM- $b$  at  $T < T_s$ ) direction [14, 15]. Upon the  $c$ -axis compression, the out-of-plane resistivity  $\rho_c$  increases by an order of magnitude whereas the in-plane resistivity is much less impacted [16]. This electronically two-dimensional state of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  displays interesting semimetal-like properties at low temperature including large magnetoresistance [17]. An extremely small quasi-particle residue  $Z$  [18] and an insulating ground state reached by only 0.5% of Ti substitution for Ru [19] indicate its close proximity to a Mott insulating state. Although diamagnetism has only been observed in Ti substituted compounds under dc current [20],  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  thus stands as an intriguing system near the boundary between a semimetal and Mott insulator. Quantum oscillation experiments have revealed the existence of small Fermi surface pockets [17, 21, 22] while an ARPES study reported boomerang-like Fermi arcs [18]. The fact that these observations are not directly reconcilable suggests that the electronic structure of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  and the symmetry breaking remain unsettled.

More recently, transport experiments have put forward evidences of in-plane anisotropic electronic susceptibility [22]. The problem of understanding the electronic properties of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  therefore connects to a broader topic of nematicity found in  $t_{2g}$  multi-orbital systems [23–28]. Magnetic-field-induced nematicity has been re-

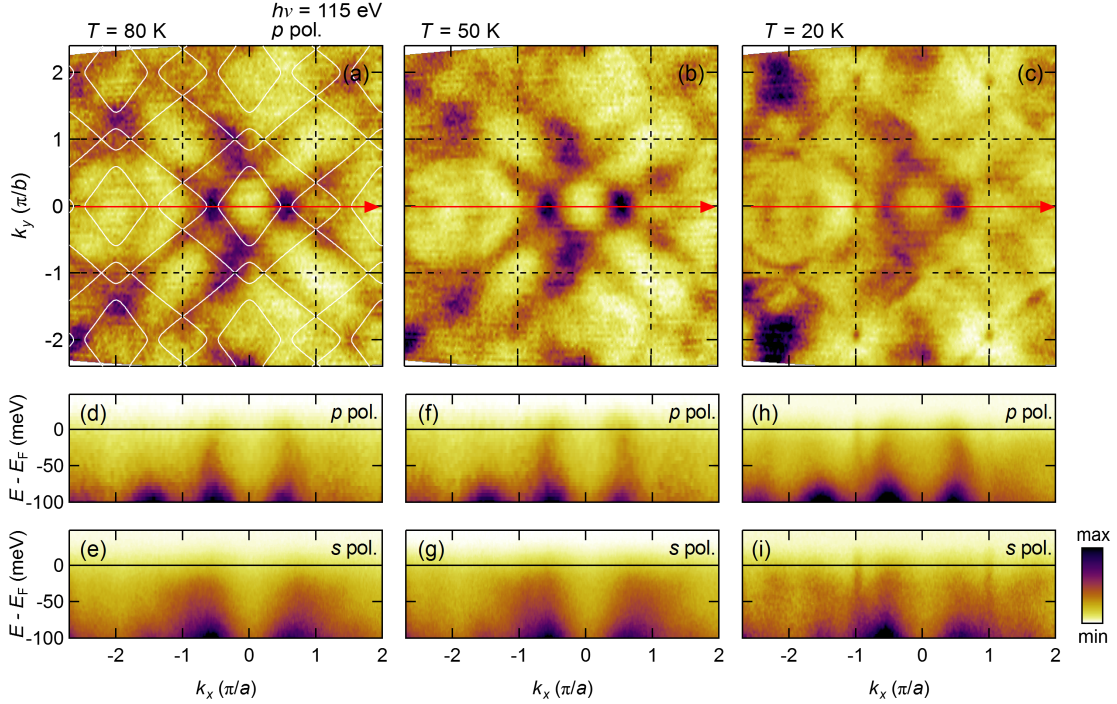


FIG. 1. **Fermi-surface reconstruction in  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ .** (a)–(c) Fermi surface maps taken at  $T = 80$ ,  $50$ , and  $20$  K, respectively. The photoelectron intensity has been integrated within  $E_F \pm 20$  meV. Superimposed in (a) are Fermi surfaces from a tight-binding model of Ru  $t_{2g}$  orbitals [31]. (d)–(i) Energy distribution maps measured at  $T = 80$  K along the cut indicated in (a) with  $p$  and  $s$  polarized light, respectively.

ported in the context of  $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  [23, 29]. It is also an active theme for superconducting iron pnictide and chalcogenide systems. Nematic orders have for example been identified in systems such as  $\text{BaFe}_{2-x}\text{Co}_x\text{As}_2$  [24, 25, 30] and  $\text{FeSe}$  [26–28]. Common to these systems ( $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ ,  $\text{BaFe}_{2-x}\text{Co}_x\text{As}_2$  and  $\text{FeSe}$ ) is that the nematicity connects intimately with spin-density-wave order/fluctuations. Since  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  is ordering with both ferromagnetic (in-plane) and AFM (out-of-plane) couplings, it is magnetically different from the other  $t_{2g}$  systems displaying nematic tendencies. It is therefore interesting to explore the in-plane anisotropy of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ .

Here we show by direct ARPES experiments that  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  is an electronically driven Dirac semimetal at low temperature. We reveal the complete set of anisotropic Fermi surfaces: A small electron pocket formed by massive Dirac fermions is found at the short-axis orthorhombic zone boundary whereas boomerang-like FS sheets are found in vicinity to the long-axis zone boundary. The temperature evolution into this  $C_4$ -broken state appears to have two stages. Electronic reconstruction appears first below  $T_{s1} = 48$  K and eventually the system settles into the low-temperature structure below  $T_{s2} = 30$  K. Throughout this temperature evolution, no signature of Brillouin-zone folding is identified, excluding any  $Q \neq 0$

density-wave/orbital order as the origin of the phase transition at  $T_{s1} = 48$  K. Our study thus demonstrates an intriguing case where electron interactions, without apparent symmetry breaking, induces a  $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semi-metallic state starting from a correlated metal.

### Methods:

High quality single crystals of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  were grown by floating zone technique [16]. The electronic transition at  $T_{s1} = 48$  K was checked by thermopower measurements (see Supplementary Fig. 1 [31]) and found in agreement with existing literatures [22, 32]. Detwinning of orthorhombic domains was achieved with a thermo-mechanical device [33] and monitored by polarized light microscopy. The resulting mono domain constitutes 99% (or more) of the sample volume according to x-ray diffraction measurements (see Supplementary Fig. 2 [31]).

Angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) experiments were carried out at the SIS [34], CAS-SIOPEE, and I05 [35] beamlines of the Swiss Light Source (SLS), SOLEIL synchrotron, and Diamond Light Source, respectively. Pristine surfaces were obtained by top-post cleaving at  $T > T_{s1}$  (80 K). Incident photons with various photon energies, ranging from  $h\nu = 31$  to  $115$  eV, were used for the measurements. Consistent

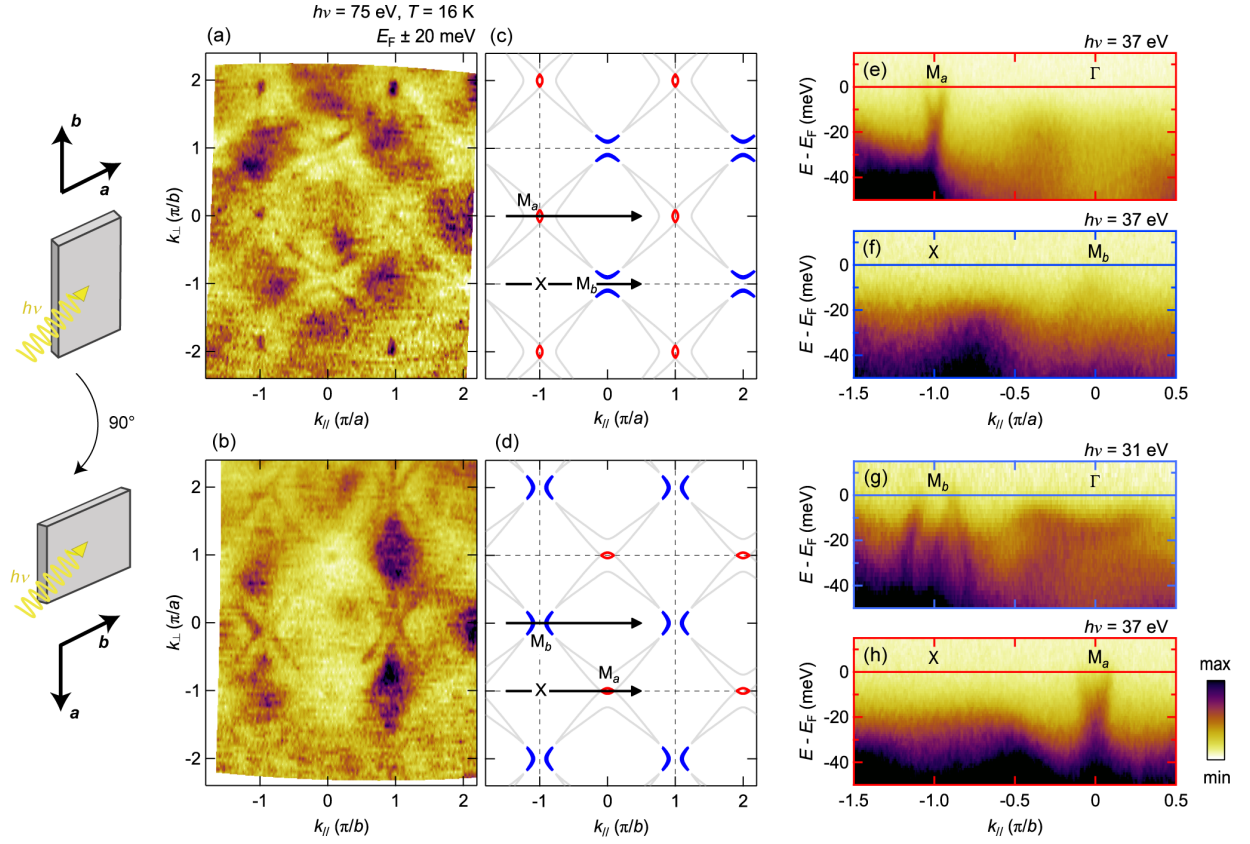


FIG. 2. **Breaking of four-fold rotational symmetry.** (a),(b) Fermi surface maps recorded at  $T = 16$  K ( $h\nu = 75$  eV) for two sample azimuthal angles that are  $90^\circ$  apart as indicated in the schematics. The azimuthal angle rotation was operated *in-situ* and hence the sample surface is identical.  $k_{\parallel}$  ( $k_{\perp}$ ) represents momentum parallel (perpendicular) to the electron-analyser slit. The spectral intensity was integrated within  $E_F \pm 20$  meV. (c),(d) Fermi surfaces from the tight-binding model [31]. The sheets not observed in the experiment are indicated in gray. (e)–(h) Energy distribution maps along  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$ ,  $X$ – $M_b$ ,  $M_b$ – $\Gamma$ , and  $X$ – $M_a$  as shown in panels (c) and (d). The energy distribution maps were recorded at  $h\nu = 37$  eV except for (g) where  $h\nu = 31$  eV incident light was used. The band structure along  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  ( $X$ – $M_a$ ) and  $M_b$ – $\Gamma$  ( $X$ – $M_b$ ) is inequivalent.

results were obtained on different crystals and upon cooling and heating through the critical temperature  $T_{s1} = 48$  K below which the electronic structure is reconstructed. ARPES data are presented using orthorhombic notation with lattice parameters  $a = 5.37$  Å and  $b = 5.54$  Å.

### Results:

**Normal state:** The Fermi surface and low-energy electronic structure of the  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  normal state – above the Néel temperature  $T_N = 56$  K – are presented in Figs. 1(a), (d), and (e). The orthorhombic zone boundary is indicated by black dashed lines in Fig. 1(a). All quasiparticle dispersions are broad irrespective of whether linear horizontal or vertical polarized light is used. This fact indicates a strongly correlated electronic state. Part of the Fermi surface consists of quasi-one-dimensional sectors running diagonally through the orthorhombic Brillouin zone. This structure remains essentially unchanged across the Néel transition

$T_N = 56$  K [see Figs. 1(b), (f), and (g)].

**Rotational symmetry breaking:** Across the structural transition at  $T_{s1} = 48$  K, however, the electronic structure undergoes a dramatic reconstruction. This is evidenced by the emergence of a fast dispersing band and a tiny Fermi surface around  $M_a = (\pm\pi/a, 0)$  – see Figs. 1(c), (h), and (i). Remarkably, this small Fermi surface sheet is absent at  $M_b = (0, \pm\pi/b)$ . Instead, as previously reported [18], boomerang-like Fermi surface sheets are found around the  $M_b$  point. Therefore, while the high temperature ( $T > T_{s1}$ ) Fermi surface is quasi four-fold symmetric, the low-temperature structure seems to break  $C_4$  symmetry.

To exclude the possibility that this  $C_2$  symmetry is an artifact of photoionization matrix-element effects, we follow a standard measurement protocol [24, 36]. That is to carry out Fermi surface mappings with azimuthal angles differing from each other by  $90^\circ$  [see Figs. 2(a)



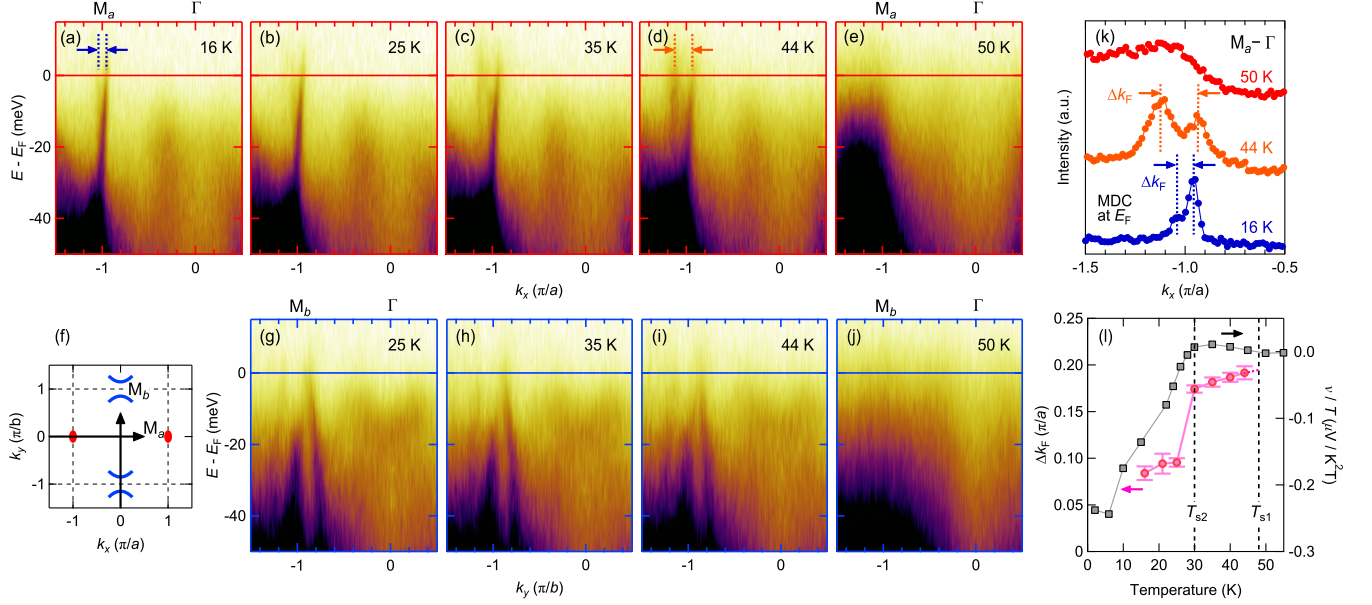


FIG. 3. **Two-stage temperature evolution of the band structure.** (a)–(j) Energy distribution maps along  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  (top panels) and  $M_b$ – $\Gamma$  (bottom panels) for temperatures as indicated. (f) Schematics of the Fermi surface and the high-symmetry cuts used in (a)–(e) and (g)–(j). (k) MDCs at  $E_F$  (integrated within  $\pm 3$  meV) extracted from EDMs in (a), (d), and (e). Clear difference in the peak separation,  $\Delta k_F$ , is found between 16 K and 44 K. (l)  $\Delta k_F$  plotted as a function of temperature. The error bars represent  $3\sigma$  of the fitting with  $\sigma$  being the standard deviation. For comparison, the Nernst coefficient  $\nu$  [22] is plotted as  $\nu/T$  versus  $T$ . Both experiments suggest an electronic transformation across  $T = 30$  K.

and (b)]. This azimuthal rotation was done *in-situ* and hence the Fermi surface maps in Figs. 2(a) and (b) were obtained on the same surface. Here,  $k_{\parallel}$  ( $k_{\perp}$ ) on the horizontal (vertical) axis represents the momentum parallel (perpendicular) to the electron-analyser slit. The electronic structure with a tiny Fermi pocket around the  $M_a$  point and boomerang-like features near  $M_b$  tracks the azimuthal rotation – see Figs. 2(a)–(d). The  $C_2$  symmetric electronic structure is also revealed by the band dispersions. Along the  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  and  $M_b$ – $\Gamma$  directions, the band curvature around  $M_a$  and  $M_b$  are clearly different [Figs. 2(e) and (g)]. An electron pocket is formed around  $M_a$  whereas two hole-like pockets are found on each side of  $M_b$ . In a similar fashion, dispersions along the  $M_a$ –X and  $M_b$ –X directions are inequivalent [Figs. 2(f) and (h)]. Electron-like band curvature is found around  $M_a$  whereas no Fermi crossing is observed along  $M_b$ –X. These results allow us to exclude matrix element effects as the source of the observed rotational-symmetry breaking and prove it to be an intrinsic property of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ .

**Two-stage Fermi surface reconstruction:** By tracking the temperature dependence of the band structure, two electronic temperature scales are revealed. The electronic band structure along  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  and  $M_b$ – $\Gamma$  is shown for temperatures spanning from 16 K to 50 K. Above  $T_{s1} = 48$  K [Figs. 3(e), (j) and Fig. 1], all the bands

appear with broad line-shapes. Once cooled below  $T_{s1}$ , well-defined bands around the  $M_a$  and  $M_b$  points emerge [see Figs. 3(d), (i), and (k)]. A gapped electron-like band also appears around the  $\Gamma$  point. The band structures around  $M_a$  and  $M_b$  are inequivalent not only in terms of curvature but also in terms of temperature dependence. The  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  band dispersion is temperature dependent whereas the corresponding structure around  $M_b$  is virtually insensitive to temperature. Examining the momentum distribution curve (MDC) at  $E_F$  in Fig. 3(k), at 44 K one finds that the two intensity maxima are not symmetrically positioned around  $M_a$ . To quantify the temperature evolution, we define  $\Delta k_F$  as the reciprocal-space distance between these two intensity maxima. As a function of temperature,  $\Delta k_F$  drops by a factor of two across  $T_{s2} = 30$  K. This electronic transformation is also visible in the band dispersion along the  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  direction [see Figs. 3(b) and (c)]. In fact,  $T_{s2}$  coincides with the temperature  $T^*$  where a sudden decrease of  $\nu/T$  ( $\nu$ : Nernst coefficient) was found [22] [see Fig. 3(l)]. At base temperature, the two peak maxima are within the experimental error bars centered around the  $M_a$  point. The low-temperature Fermi surface thus emerges as a result of two reconstructions. First below  $T_{s1} = 48$  K, a fast dispersing band appears around  $M_a$  and  $M_b$ . The observed electronic dispersions suggest that rotational symmetry is breaking already across  $T_{s1}$ . Next, the band dispersion along the  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  direction undergoes a second

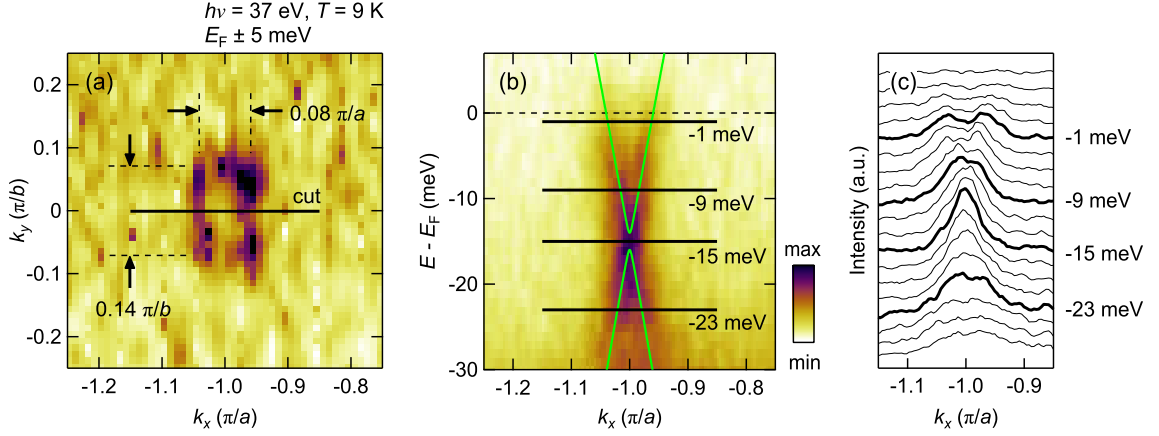


FIG. 4. **Dirac cone structure in  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$**  (a) High-resolution Fermi surface map around the  $M_a$  point. (b) Energy distribution map along the  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  direction evidencing a Dirac cone structure. Crystal/magnetic symmetry imposes a finite mass as illustrated by green dispersions reproduced by the tight-binding model [31]. (c) MDCs, extracted from (b), at binding energies as indicated.

transformation across  $T_{s2} = 30$  K.

**Low-temperature electronic structure:** We now examine the low-temperature ( $T < T_{s2}$ ) electronic structure. Except for the structures around the  $M_a$  and  $M_b$  points, all bands are gapped as evident from Figs. 2(e)–(h). Around the  $M_b$  point, two hole-like bands – forming an M-shaped structure – is found [Fig. 2(g)]. While the hole-like band touches  $E_F$  along the  $M_b$ – $\Gamma$  direction [Fig. 2(g)], the band top sinks below  $E_F$  upon moving away from it (See Supplementary Fig. 3 [31]) consistent with a previous report [18]. The boomerang-like feature thus forms a closed hole-like Fermi surface.

Around the  $M_a$  point, the electron-like Fermi surface pocket is revealed by a high-resolution map in Fig. 4(a). The topology of this electron pocket is elliptical with  $k_F^a = 0.04\pi/a$  and  $k_F^b = 0.07\pi/b$  along the  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  and  $M_a$ – $X$  directions, respectively. The Fermi surface area  $A_{\text{FS}} = \pi k_F^a k_F^b$  corresponds to approximately 0.23% of the orthorhombic Brillouin zone. Inspecting the band dispersion along the  $M_a$ – $\Gamma$  direction reveals a Dirac-cone structure with the Dirac point placed about  $E_D = 15$  meV below  $E_F$  [Fig. 4(b)]. The two-peak MDC profile found at  $E_F$  merges into a single peak at  $E_D$  and then splits again below  $E_D$  [see Fig. 4(c)]. From this MDC analysis, a linearized Fermi velocity of  $v_F^a = 0.62$  eVÅ (95 km/s) and  $v_F^b = 0.37$  eVÅ (57 km/s) is estimated. Our results thus suggest that  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  at low temperatures is a highly anisotropic Dirac semimetal.

### Discussion:

Let us compare the Fermi surface structure observed here with quantum oscillation experiments. Using the Onsager relation [37], the Fermi surface areas are di-

rectly linked to the quantum oscillation frequencies  $F = \Phi_0 A_{\text{FS}} / (2\pi^2)$  where  $\Phi$  is the flux quantum. The low-temperature electron pocket around  $M_a$  corresponds to  $F = 34$  T in excellent agreement with observed quantum oscillation frequencies 28–43 T [17, 21, 22]. The hole-like boomerang structure comprises a Fermi surface area that is too small to be quantified accurately by our ARPES experiments. However, it should produce a low-frequency quantum oscillation. Indeed, a frequency corresponding to 0.07% of the Brillouin zone or about 1/3 of the electron pocket has been reported [21]. It is therefore conceivable that the electron- and hole- Fermi pockets reported here are those responsible for the quantum oscillations. Our ARPES work unveils the band curvature and position of these pockets within the Brillouin zone.

As the electron pocket is resolved clearly by both the ARPES and quantum oscillation experiments, a direct comparison of the effective electronic mass  $m^* = \frac{\hbar^2}{2\pi} \frac{\partial A_{\text{FS}}}{\partial \varepsilon}$  is possible [38, 39]. Analysis of the  $\sim 35$  T quantum-oscillation frequency yielded  $m_e^* = 0.6m_e$  [17], where  $m_e$  is the electron mass. Assuming a parabolic band dispersion  $m_e^* = \hbar^2 k_F^a k_F^b / 2\varepsilon_F$  where  $\varepsilon_F = 15$  meV is the Fermi energy, the effective mass  $m_e^* = 0.25m_e$  is significantly lower than what has been inferred from quantum-oscillation experiments. If, however, a linear band dispersion  $E_k = v_F k$  is assumed, much better agreement  $m_e^* = \varepsilon_F / v_F^a v_F^b = A_{\text{FS}} / \pi \varepsilon_F = 0.49m_e$  is obtained. This fact reinforces the interpretation of Dirac fermions around  $M_a$ . The boomerang band along  $\Gamma$ – $M_b$  has comparable Fermi velocity to that of the electron pocket along  $\Gamma$ – $M_a$ . However, the Fermi energy is estimated to be as small as  $\sim 5$  meV from linear extrapolation of the M-shaped band dispersion. Since the hole pocket is about 3 times smaller than the electron

sheet, we estimate the hole-like carriers to have an effective mass of  $m_h^* = 0.49m_e$ . With two hole and one electron pocket per Brillouin zone, a Sommerfeld constant of  $\gamma \approx 2.1$  mJ/(mol K<sup>2</sup>) is found. Here, we assumed two-dimensional band dispersions without bi-layer splitting. In addition, spin polarization within the RuO<sub>2</sub> plane was employed to treat the A-type AFM order. As the estimate is in reasonable agreement with the value  $\gamma \approx 2.8$ – $3.4$  mJ/(mol K<sup>2</sup>) obtained by specific heat experiments [16, 17], we conclude that the entire/complete bulk Fermi surface has been revealed.

The two-stage transformation of the electronic structure has a clear impact on all transport coefficients. A remarkable increase of in- and out-of-plane resistivity appears across  $T_{s1} = 48$  K [16, 17]. Simultaneously, the Seebeck coefficient changes sign going from weak positive to large negative values across  $T_{s1}$  [22]. Although less sharp, the Hall coefficient also changes sign (from positive to negative) across  $T_{s1}$ . While the Hall coefficient takes increasingly large negative values [22, 40], the Seebeck coefficient displays a complicated temperature dependence that in addition is different along the  $a$  and  $b$  directions [22]. This is a typical signature of ambipolar transport behaviour where both electron- and hole-like carriers are contributing [41]. Furthermore, the low-temperature Hall coefficient  $R_H$  that ranges between  $-0.5 \times 10^{-7}$  m<sup>3</sup>/C and  $-1.4 \times 10^{-7}$  m<sup>3</sup>/C [17, 22, 40] cannot be explained by the electron pocket that alone should generate  $R_H = -1/(n_e e) = -8.0 \times 10^{-7}$  m<sup>3</sup>/C. Using the combined ARPES and quantum-oscillation knowledge that  $n_e = 7.8 \times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> and  $n_h \approx 2 \times n_e/3$ , a two band model [42] yields  $R_H = (2\alpha^2/3 - 1)/(n_e e)(2\alpha/3 + 1)^2$  where  $\alpha = \mu_h/\mu_e$  is the mobility ratio between electrons and holes. The exact experimental values of  $R_H(T = 0)$  imply that  $\mu_h \approx 0.9$ – $1.1 \times \mu_e$  and  $\mu_e \approx |R_H|/\rho_{xx} = 0.1$  T<sup>-1</sup>. We thus infer that in the  $T \rightarrow 0$  limit electron- and hole-like carriers have comparable mobility that in turn generate the ambipolar transport properties.

Having established the existence of small electron pockets with linear dispersion around the  $M_a$  point, a question arises whether these excitations are massless Dirac fermions or whether they possess a finite mass at  $M_a$ . While the question cannot be definitively answered from the experimental data due to the finite energy resolution, we discuss here implications from the crystal symmetry. Ca<sub>3</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> has the space group  $Bb2_1m$  (No. 36) [13]. For our purpose, it is sufficient to focus on a single bi-layer. The point group of such a bi-layer is  $C_{2v}$  with a mirror plane between the two layers, as well as a glide plane perpendicular to the mirror and a two-fold screw axis along the crystalline  $b$  axis (the longer in-plane axis). Together with time-reversal symmetry (TRS) in the paramagnetic state, this imposes a Kramer's degeneracy along  $M_b$ – $X$  in the Brillouin zone. Furthermore, TRS imposes Kramer's pairs at the  $M_a$  and  $\Gamma$  point.

When TRS is broken in the A-type AFM phase [14], the generating point group of the bi-layer is reduced to  $C_{2v}$  ( $C_s$ ) for the AFM- $a$  phase and  $C_{2v}$  ( $C_2$ ) for the AFM- $b$  phase. Here, the notation  $\mathcal{G}$  ( $\mathcal{G}'$ ) denotes the generating point group  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $\mathcal{G}'$  the subgroup of elements that do not have to be combined with TRS. While the Kramer's degeneracy is preserved along  $M_b$ – $X$ , the one at the  $M_a$  and  $\Gamma$  point is lifted. The Dirac fermions at  $M_a$  thus possess a finite mass as schematically illustrated in Fig. 4(b).

We can reproduce key features of the low-temperature semi-metallic band structure employing a tight-binding model of the Ru  $t_{2g}$  orbitals [31]. Given the “one-dimensional” nature of the high-temperature ( $T > 48$  K) Fermi surface, we restrict our model to the Ru  $d_{xz}$  and  $d_{yz}$  orbitals in an effective single-layer model. Such a model faithfully reproduces the Fermi surface in the normal state as illustrated by Fig. 1(a). Importantly, a rigid band shift, as expected due to the  $c$ -axis compression at  $T_{s1}$  [13], yields elliptical electron pockets with linear dispersion around the  $M_a$  point and a hole-like boomerang structure around the  $M_b$  point [Figs. 2(c) and (d)]. Finally, the Brillouin-zone folding due to the screw-axis opens a gap at the  $M_a$  point [see Fig. 4(b)]. While our tight-binding model based on the Ru  $t_{2g}$  orbitals is too simplistic to capture all the features and does not include the actual electronic instability, it reproduces the most important features of both the high- and low-temperature dispersions. We thus conclude that the origin of the low-temperature pockets are due to the  $d_{xz}$  and  $d_{yz}$  Ru orbitals.

## Conclusions & Outlook:

In summary, we have revealed the low-temperature electronic transformation of Ca<sub>3</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>. Across  $T = 48$  K the system reconstructs from a strongly correlated metal into a  $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetal. The ground state electronic structure consists of a Dirac cone forming an elliptical electron pocket around the short-axis orthorhombic zone boundary. By contrast, along the long axis a hole-like Dirac cone constitutes a boomerang shaped Fermi surface. This Fermi surface structure and the observed band velocities are consistent with the sheet areas and electronic masses derived from quantum oscillation experiments. Thermodynamic measurements of the density of states are also consistent with the identified structure. Finally, it is shown that the low-temperature state emerges in two steps. First, the Fermi surface reconstructs at  $T_{s1} = 48$  K. A second transformation along the short-orthorhombic axis settles the ground state structure below  $T_{s2} = 30$  K. The Fermi surface transformation and the low-temperature structure is described with a simple tight-binding model containing only  $d_{xz}/d_{yz}$  orbitals. Overall, the identified  $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetallic structure provides an understanding of the fermionic properties observed by quantum oscilla-

tion, specific heat, and electronic transport experiments.

In outlook, the state of matter that makes the  $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetal energetically favorable should be scrutinized. In  $\text{Ca}_2\text{RuO}_4$ , a Mott insulating state offers an energetically favorable ground state, through a  $c$ -axis compressive crystal field environment [9, 11, 12]. Although much weaker in  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ , a similar seemingly disfavorable  $c$ -axis compressive crystal field environment occurs across the critical temperature for the Fermi surface reconstruction [13]. A fundamental question is what triggers the sudden change of crystal field environment that in turn induces the  $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetal. Specific heat suggests that the crystal field changes through a phase transition involving a large entropy change [16]. Within a Landau paradigm, this implies symmetry breaking. It appears unlikely that the spin reorientation, that changes slightly the point symmetry group, is responsible for the large entropy change and the Fermi surface reconstruction. As the Fermi surface reconstruction preserves the orthorhombic lattice Brillouin zone, density waves (charge, spin or orbital) breaking lattice translational symmetry can be excluded. As such,  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  resembles the hidden order problem of  $\text{URu}_2\text{Si}_2$  [43] where crystal field environment [44] and Fermi surface reconstruction [45] occurs without an identifiable symmetry breaking. Recently, it has been proposed that  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  hosts magnetic anapole order [46, 47]. A direct resonant x-ray diffraction confirmation of anapole order would be of great interest. Finally,  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  could be an example of physics going beyond the Landau paradigm [48, 49]. If so, the origin of the here reported Fermi surface reconstruction is rooted in topology rather than symmetry breaking.

#### Acknowledgements:

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# Supplemental Material

## Electron-driven $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetal uncovered in $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$

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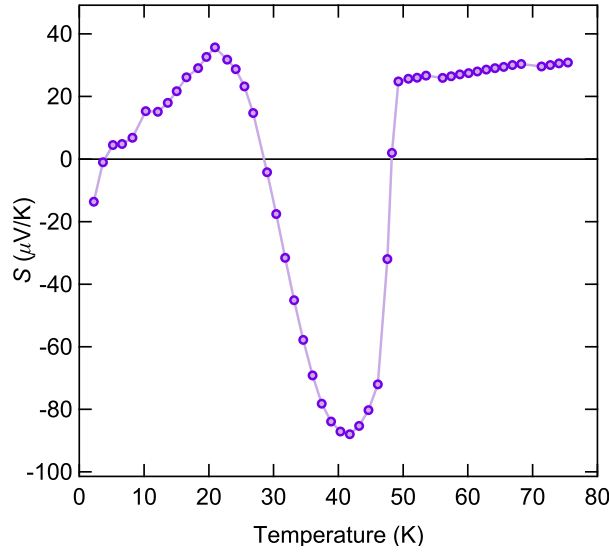
<sup>5</sup>*Center for X-ray Analytics, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa), Überlandstrasse 129, CH-8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland*

<sup>6</sup>*Diamond Light Source, Harwell Campus, Didcot, OX11 0DE, United Kingdom*

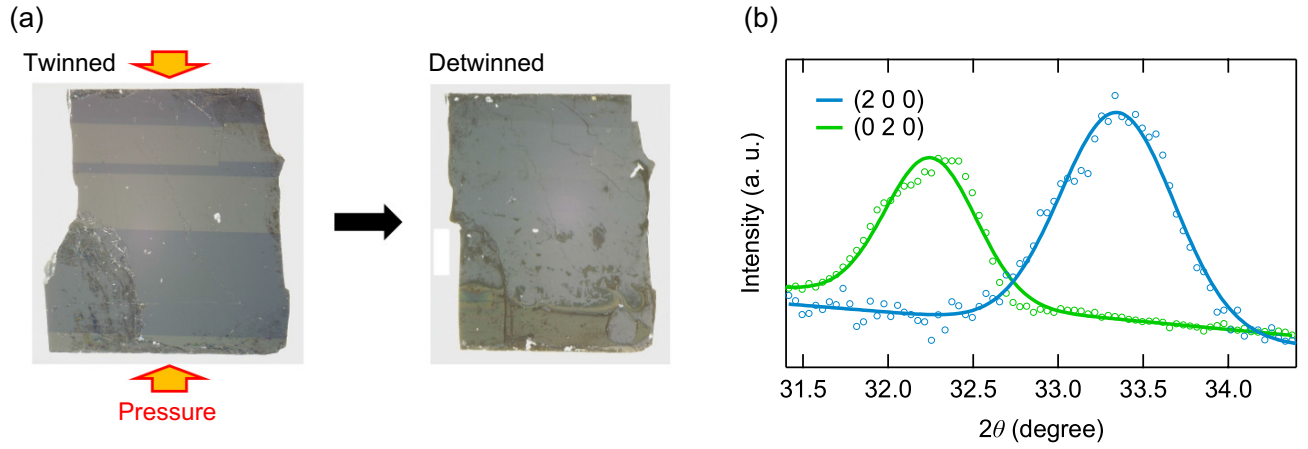
<sup>7</sup>*Synchrotron SOLEIL, Saint-Aubin-BP 48, F-91192 Gif sur Yvette, France*

<sup>8</sup>*Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institut, CH-5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland*

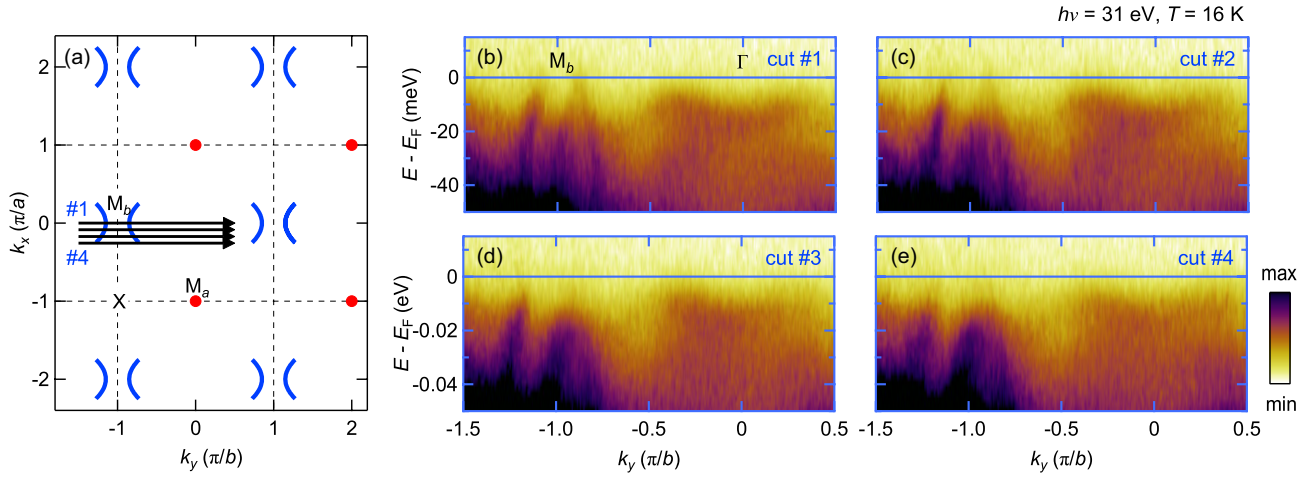
### I. SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES



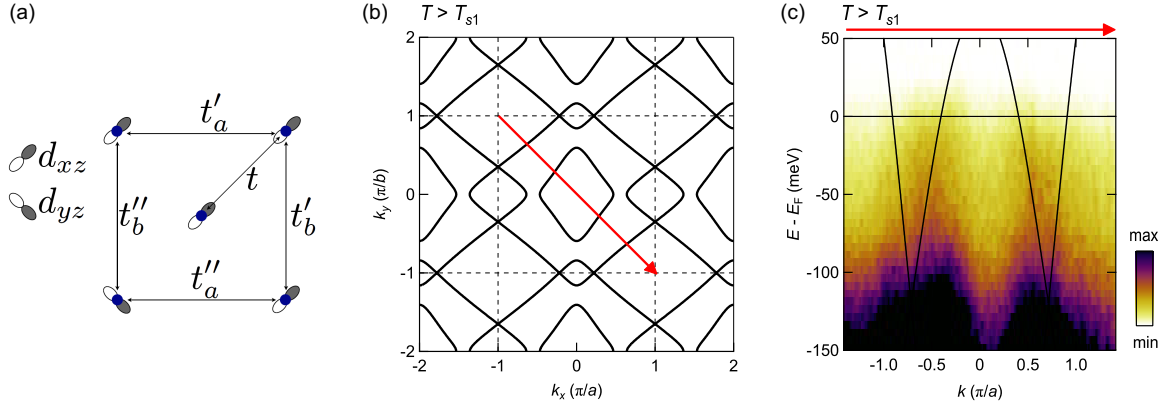
Supplementary Figure 1. Zero-field thermopower of twinned  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ .



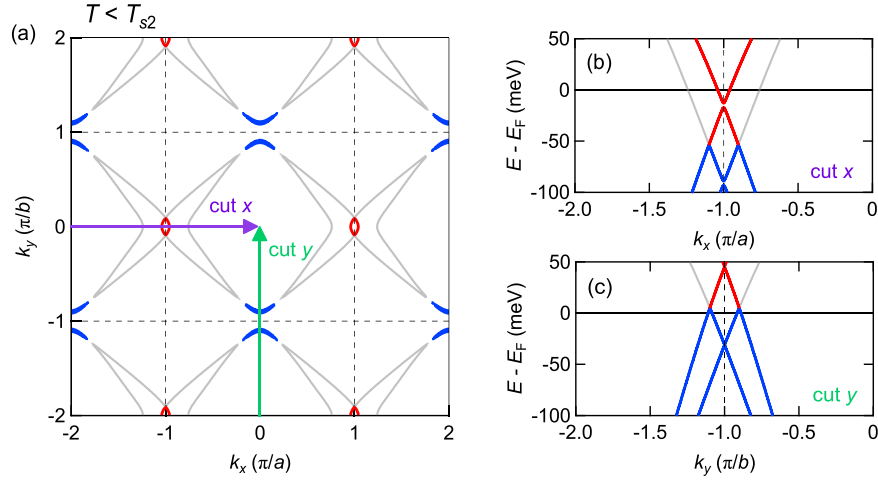
**Supplementary Figure 2. Detwinning of  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  crystals.** (a) Polarized-light microscope images of a  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  single crystal before and after detwinning. Domain structure is visualised as a contrast in the sample color. (b)  $(2\ 0\ 0)$  and  $(0\ 2\ 0)$  Bragg peaks of the detwinned  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$  obtained from x-ray  $\theta$ - $2\theta$  diffraction measurement. Deduced lattice parameters of  $a = 5.37\ \text{\AA}$  and  $b = 5.54\ \text{\AA}$  at room temperature are consistent with the literature values [1]. Selectively observed  $(2\ 0\ 0)$  and  $(0\ 2\ 0)$  Bragg peaks indicate the perfection of detwinning.



**Supplementary Figure 3. Energy distribution maps around the  $M_b$  point.** (a) Schematic Fermi surfaces indicating momentum cut positions. (b)–(e) Energy distribution maps along cuts #1–#4 recorded at  $T = 16\ \text{K}$  with incident light of  $h\nu = 31\ \text{eV}$ .



**Supplementary Figure 4. Tight-binding model.** (a) Hopping parameters for the tight-binding model based on the Ru  $d_{xz}$  and  $d_{yz}$  orbitals. (b) Normal state ( $T > T_{s1} = 48$  K) Fermi surface obtained using a tight-binding model with chemical potential  $\mu = t$  and hopping parameters  $t'_a/t = t'_b/4t = 0.04$  and  $t''_a/t = -t''_b/t = 0.32$ . This model Fermi surface is plotted in Fig. 1(a) of the main text. (c) ARPES energy distribution map at 80 K along the Brillouin-zone diagonal cut, showing agreement with the tight-binding dispersions with  $t = 120$  meV.



**Supplementary Figure 5. Modeling of the  $C_2$ -symmetric Dirac semimetallic structure.** (a) Low-temperature ( $T < T_{s2} = 30$  K) Fermi surface obtained from the tight-binding model through justified (see text) change of chemical potential ( $\mu/t = 0.19$ ). All the hopping parameters are kept the same as in the normal state. Red and blue Fermi surface sheets correspond to the observed electron pocket at  $M_a$  and boomerang structure around the  $M_b$  point. (b) and (c) are the model band dispersion along  $M_a$ - $\Gamma$  and  $M_b$ - $\Gamma$  where  $t = 120$  meV has been adjusted to mimic the observed band velocities and the Dirac point. Fermi surfaces and bands not seen in the experiment are plotted in gray.

## II. TIGHT-BINDING MODEL

To discuss the origin of the low-temperature semimetallic band structure, we study in the following an effective single-layer tight-binding model. The electronic states close to the Fermi energy derive from the Ru  $t_{2g}$  orbitals [2]. Motivated by the strong Hund's coupling which drives the ruthenates towards an orbital selective regime [3] and the experimental observation of the “one-dimensional” nature of the gnormalh state ( $T > 48$  K) Fermi surface, we restrict our model to the Ru  $d_{xz}$  and  $d_{yz}$  orbitals. Specifically, including nearest- and next-to-nearest-neighbor hopping, we start from a  $d_{yz}$ - and  $d_{xz}$ -based tight-binding Hamiltonian given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{k}} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}^{yz} - \mu & g_{\mathbf{k}} \\ g_{\mathbf{k}} & \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}^{xz} - \mu \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}^{xz} &= -2t \cos k_X - 2t'_a \cos k_x - 2t'_b \cos k_y, \\ \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}^{yz} &= -2t \cos k_Y - 2t'_a \cos k_x - 2t'_b \cos k_y, \\ g_{\mathbf{k}} &= -2t''_a \cos k_x - 2t''_b \cos k_y. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Here,  $k_X = (k_x - k_y)/2$  and  $k_Y = (k_x + k_y)/2$  represent the tetragonal crystal axes,  $t$  is a nearest-neighbor hopping parameter, while  $t'_a$  ( $t'_b$ ) and  $t''_a$  ( $t''_b$ ) are intra- and inter- orbital next-nearest-neighbor hopping parameters along the  $a$  ( $b$ ) orthorhombic axes, respectively [see Supplementary Fig. 4(a)]. Further,  $\mu$  denotes the chemical potential. For simplicity, we omit spin-orbit coupling in our model. Finally, the rotation and tilting of the RuO<sub>6</sub> octahedra leads to a doubling of the unit cell and correspondingly to folded bands. Note that the folding in the  $a$  and  $b$  direction is not equivalent due to the glide plane and the two-fold screw axis along only the  $b$  axis.

The normal state Fermi surface is indeed well reproduced by this simple model as shown in Supplementary Fig. 4(b). Here we have used  $t'_a/t = t'_b/4t = 0.04$  and  $t''_a/t = -t''_b/t = 0.32$ . Finally, we fixed  $t = 120$  meV to additionally reproduce the Fermi velocities. Note that we use the low-temperature dispersion for fitting the Fermi velocities, as the high-temperature data is too broad. Nevertheless, the hopping parameters extracted from the low-temperature data is consistent with the dispersion at  $T = 80$  K [See Supplementary Fig. 4(c)]. Finally, given the approximately cubic crystal field environment [1], we have set the filling of the  $d_{xz}$  and  $d_{yz}$  orbitals  $n_{xz} = n_{yz} \approx 1/3$ , which results in  $\mu \approx t$ .

Having established a simple model capturing the main feature of the normal state Fermi surface, we use this model to describe the Fermi surface below  $T_{s1}$  and the low-temperature band structure. We can reconstruct the most salient observations of the low-temperature band structure, namely an elliptical electron pocket around the  $M_a$  point and a hole-like boomerang structure around the  $M_b$  point [Supplementary Fig. 5(a)] by only changing the chemical potential ( $\mu/t = 0.19$ ). Importantly, the model correctly exhibits an approximately linear band dispersion close to the Fermi energy [Supplementary Figs. 5(b) and (c)], which is again consistent with the experimentally observed structure.

The change to the chemical potential in the tight-binding model discussed above can be understood from the transition at  $T_{s1}$ : The phase transition at  $T_{s1}$  is associated with a  $c$ -axis compression [1], which implies a change in crystal-field environment that drives  $n_{xz}$  and  $n_{yz}$  towards half-filling. In fact, this orbital-polarization shift is what triggers the band-Mott insulating transition in Ca<sub>2</sub>RuO<sub>4</sub> [4, 5]. Although the  $c$ -axis compression is  $\sim 40$  times smaller in Ca<sub>3</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, we expect the filling of the  $d_{xz}/d_{yz}$  orbitals to change. Finally, note that the Brillouin-zone folding discussed above couples states at  $(k_x, k_y)$  with states at  $(k_x + 2\pi/a, k_y)$ , opening a gap as discussed in the main text from a pure symmetry perspective.

A final comment to the additional Fermi surface sheet that is not observed in the experiment [gray sheet in Supplementary Fig. 5(a)]. The absence of this band in the experiment could relate to photoemission matrix element effects. Given the agreement in the estimated specific heat value, a more plausible explanation is that our tight-binding modelling is too simplistic and that electronic interaction would gap out the missing sheet.

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